



THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

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REPORT

TO

MEMBERS

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

FROM

THE APRIL 1983 MEETING

OF

COUNCIL

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

APRIL 1983

Incorporation of the Federation

1. At the special meeting, convened under Rule 49 of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. and in accordance with Co-operative Societies (General) Regulations 1982, Regulation 17(3), the first directors of the Federation were elected.

They are :

Black,	J.N.	delegate representing Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-op. Soc. Ltd.
Dash,	A.	" Victorian Credit Co-op. Assocn. Ltd.
Gill,	A.	" Ballarat Employment Co-operative Society Ltd.
Long,	E.J.	" Y.C.W. Co-operative Society Ltd.
Macintosh,	B.H.	" Morwell Co-operative Society Ltd.
Mitchell,	J.	" Co-operative Insurance Co. of Australia Ltd.
Rigby,	J.F.	" Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company Ltd.
Rundle,	M.	" Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society
Simm,	G.J.	" Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-op. Society Ltd.
Slattery,	O.J.	" Phosphate Co-operative Co. of Australia Ltd

2. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors elections and appointments made were :

Chairman of the Board	Mr. J. Niel Black
Vice Chairman	Mr. Owen J. Slattery
Secretary	Mr. Bill W. Rawlinson

3. Also at the Board Meeting, five \$2 shares were allotted and issued to the following applicant members :

Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society
Victorian Producers' Co-operative Company Ltd.
Victorian Credit Co-operative Association Ltd.
Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-operative Society Ltd.

Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia Ltd.
The Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia Ltd.
Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.
Warrnambool Co-operative Society Ltd.
Western Herd Improvement Co-operative Society Ltd.
Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company Ltd.
Emerald & District Co-operative Society Ltd.
The North Eastern Co-operative Society Ltd.
Robinvale Producers Co-operative Company Ltd.
Y.C.W. Co-operative Society Ltd.
Morwell Co-operative Ltd.
Ballarat Employment Co-operative Ltd.
Abalone Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd.
Community Work Society Co-operative Ltd.
West Gippsland H.I. Co-operative Ltd.
Bendigo Trading Co-operative Ltd.
Public Images Co-operative Society Ltd.
Goulburn Valley Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.
Ibis Milk Products Ltd.
Murrabit Advancement Co-operative Ltd.
Australian Footwear Retailers Co-operative Ltd.
Yinnar Community Hotel Co-operative Ltd.
South Gippsland Artificial Breeders Co-operative Ltd.
Cobden Artificial Breeders Co-operative Ltd.
Timboon H.I. Co-operative Ltd.
Rochester H.I. Co-operative Ltd.
Colac Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.
Gippsland Tip Truck Hiring Co-operative Ltd.
Waverley Trading Co-operative Ltd.

Share Certificates will be issued to all Shareholder members in due course.

1983 Annual Conference

Council has set Tuesday August 9th, 1983 as the date for this year's Conference at the same venue as last year - Yarra Room, Olympic Park. A very attractive programme is being planned, including local, interstate and international Co-operative speakers all of the highest calibre able to assist Victorian Co-operative bodies in their operation. Make a diary note for as many of your Board of Directors and management as possible to be present.

Full details of the programme and arrangements will be issued as soon as possible.

Co-operation in Schools

The provision of Government funds and a consideration of priorities for the research project into this programme has resulted in an appointment for the research officer being made with the object of gathering and analysing material on pre formal Co-operative education, development of appropriate curriculum material and ensuring a practical pilot scheme in Co-operative education can be undertaken in the Transition area of School to Work programmes.

Jeanette Fenelon has been appointed to the task. She will be based at Holmesglen College of TAFE.

Changes at the Registry

The Co-operative Societies Registry has been allocated to the Legal and Registry Division of the Ministry of Housing.

Mr. Warren Jungwirth has retired from the position of Registrar of Co-operative Societies and has been succeeded by Mr. Bill Kilpatrick, a solicitor and Chairman of the Minister's Legislative Review Committee.

Mrs. Linda Kuchmar has commenced twelve months maternity leave and her job is currently being done by Mr. Kerry Nolan.

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

A proposal from Mr. Rawlinson, as a member of the Advisory Council, that more Government funds should be made available for promotion of Co-operation in the community was supported by that Council for submission to the Minister for inclusion in the State Budget for the coming financial year.

Liability of Co-operative Members

Section 52 of the Co-operation Act 1981 provides that "a society shall be formed with limited liability". This means that the extent of a member's legal liability is to the amount, if any, unpaid on his share capital.

The importance of maintaining correct records, complying with the Act and other relevant legislation, particularly so far as formal application for membership and shares is concerned, cannot be over emphasized.

A case, currently subjudice, was reported to the last meeting of Council when a reputed member shareholder of a Co-operative denies his liability on the grounds of inadequate completion of share application form.

One Liability of Co-operative Directors

Section 108 of the Co-operation Act 1981 requires officers or other persons having receipt or charge of any money of a Society to give security prescribed by regulations or be covered by Fidelity Guarantee Insurance approved by the Registrar.

Regulation 75 of the Co-operative Societies (General) Regulations 1982 reads :

Security by officers.

75. (1) The prescribed security for the purposes of section 108 of the Act is a bond from an insurance company -

- (a) in a form; and
- (b) in the sum of money (being not less than \$2000) approved by the registrar.

(2) An officer or other person having the receipt or charge of any money of a society shall not enter on the duties of his office unless security as prescribed under sub-regulation (1) has first been obtained.

(3) In sub-regulation (1) 'insurance company' means a body corporate authorized under the Insurance Act 1973 of the Commonwealth of Australia to carry on insurance business.

(4) Where an offence against sub-regulation (2) is committed every director of the society who is in default also is guilty of the same offence and liable to a penalty of not more than \$200.